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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(1 April 1996-23 September 1996)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report gives an account of developments and activities in respect of the mandate entrusted to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), in accordance with Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 689 (1991) and 806 (1993). It covers the period from 1 April to 23 September 1996.

II. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2. The situation in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) remained generally calm, with no major violations or serious incidents. However, in the first two weeks of September, tensions increased in the Mission area following the Iraqi military operations in the north of the country and the subsequent missile attacks by the United States of America against targets in Iraq. On 9 September 1996, the Iraqi authorities requested UNIKOM to modify the route of its regular transport flight between Kuwait and Baghdad (Habaniya), and to use instead an international flight corridor through Saudi Arabia. Such a detour would have created operational difficulties and, at the request of UNIKOM, the original route was restored by Iraq on 15 September.

3. There was an increase in the number of complaints made by the two parties. UNIKOM received 32 complaints: 19 from Kuwait, 12 from Iraq and 1 common to both. (In the previous reporting period, UNIKOM received nine complaints: three from Iraq and six from Kuwait.) Iraq filed complaints regarding territorial and weapons violations on the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, three of which were lodged at United Nations Headquarters by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations. Complaints from Kuwait dealt mainly with armed robberies in the Abdaly farm area and firing at Kuwaiti police patrols and posts from across the border. In response to the latter, UNIKOM took precautionary measures to defuse potential tensions by posting a patrol in the most sensitive area for several weeks.

4. UNIKOM investigated all complaints submitted by the parties. It verified 23 violations: six on land and 16 in the air. Two cases on land involved an Iraqi and three unidentified individuals who crossed the border to Kuwait, seeking asylum and other assistance. Another three cases were related to the carrying of weapons and movement of military vehicles by Kuwaiti nationals on the Kuwaiti side of the DMZ. In one case, two Iraqi nationals erroneously crossed the border with a truck and were apprehended by the Kuwaiti authorities. They were eventually returned to Iraq through UNIKOM. The air violations involved overflights by helicopters and by F-15 and A-10 aircraft. Such aircraft are used by the coalition forces, but the nationalities could not be identified. On 3 September 1996, UNIKOM observed eight cruise missiles flying over the DMZ into Iraq.

5. Several complaints could not be verified because of the time that had elapsed between the alleged incident and receipt of the complaint. UNIKOM has requested both parties to avoid similar delays in the future.

6. There was an increase in activity on the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, mostly attributable to the presence of fishing boats in the peak fishing season from May through July. At times, fishermen strayed across the unmarked maritime boundary. There were a number of serious complaints, including two lodged by Iraq on 22 and 23 May, alleging that Kuwaiti boats had entered Iraqi waters and opened fire on Iraqi patrol boats. On 30 June, Iraq complained about the presence of two armed Kuwaiti boats in the waterway. These complaints could not be verified by UNIKOM.

7. Economic activities in Umm Qasr port and in the areas where oilfields are located in the DMZ also increased. These included the docking of 14 ships carrying food for Iraq at the port of Umm Qasr, and the arrival of tugboats in preparation for an increase in shipping activity in the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, expected as a result of the implementation of resolution 986 (1995). Maintenance work on railways and roads leading to and from the port was also stepped up.

8. On the Kuwaiti side, oil drilling and survey activities intensified over the past two months. Kuwait has also begun to construct a second berm and trench from the coast near Bubiyan Island along the outer edge of the DMZ. The purpose is to control entry from Kuwait into the DMZ. The new berm and trench overlaps the DMZ for a length of about 20 kilometres and a depth of three kilometres to take in the Abdaly farm area. Kuwait has also begun to restore its coastguard posts on Warbah and Bubiyan Islands.

9. UNIKOM monitored these activities from patrol and observation bases, from temporary observation points and using ground and air patrols. In the light of the increased number of complaints, UNIKOM has stepped up its patrols in the DMZ. I have also agreed, on the Force Commander's recommendation, to improve the monitoring of the Khawr Abd Allah waterway by setting up an additional observation post on Warbah Island and by upgrading radar and night vision equipment on the two existing observation posts located on Al Faw, and at the entrance to the Al Zubayr waterway, respectively. I am also looking into the possibility of providing UNIKOM with two small boats to enable it to patrol on the water and to intervene when necessary to prevent confrontations.

10. UNIKOM also provided security and logistical support for six meetings of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Technical Subcommittee on Military and Civilian Missing Prisoners of War and Mortal Remains. These meetings were conducted in the DMZ alternately at UNIKOM headquarters at Umm Qasr and at its support base at Camp Khor. UNIKOM also facilitated the exchange of civilians across the Iraq-Kuwait border as arranged by ICRC between the two countries.

11. UNIKOM continued to maintain constant and close liaison with the authorities of the host countries at various levels, including through its liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City. Both parties cooperated fully with the Mission to enable it to carry out its tasks.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

12. The streamlining of UNIKOM referred to in my previous report (S/1996/225, para. 12) is proceeding as planned. On 10 June 1996, the operational sectors in the DMZ were reduced from three to two. Consequently, the Mission's area of operations is now divided into the northern sector, with 10 patrol and observation bases, and the southern sector, with eight patrol and observation bases. In the northern sector, the sector headquarters and two patrol and observation bases were relocated to improve both command and control and surveillance of the area between the agricultural zone (Safwan in Iraq, Abdaly in Kuwait), and the Al Rutqah oilfield. The current deployment is shown in the attached map. The reduction in the number of military observers will be completed in April 1997. Concurrently, the streamlining of the civilian component of UNIKOM is being effected.

13. As of September 1996, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,356, as follows:

(a) Two hundred and twelve military observers from Argentina (4), Austria (6), Bangladesh (10), Canada (4), China (13), Denmark (6), Fiji (5), Finland (6), France (12), Ghana (6), Greece (5), Hungary (6), India (5), Indonesia (6), Ireland (5), Italy (6), Kenya (6), Malaysia (5), Nigeria (5), Pakistan (7), Poland (6), Romania (5), Russian Federation (11), Senegal (6), Singapore (7), Sweden (6), Thailand (5), Turkey (5), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (15), Uruguay (5), United States of America (11) and Venezuela (2);

(b) An infantry battalion of 775 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineer unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 34 from Austria;

(e) A helicopter unit of 29 from Bangladesh;

(f) A medical unit of 15 from Germany;

(g) Two hundred and forty one civilian staff, of whom 71 were recruited internationally.

Major-General Gian Giuseppe Santillo (Italy) continued as Force Commander.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

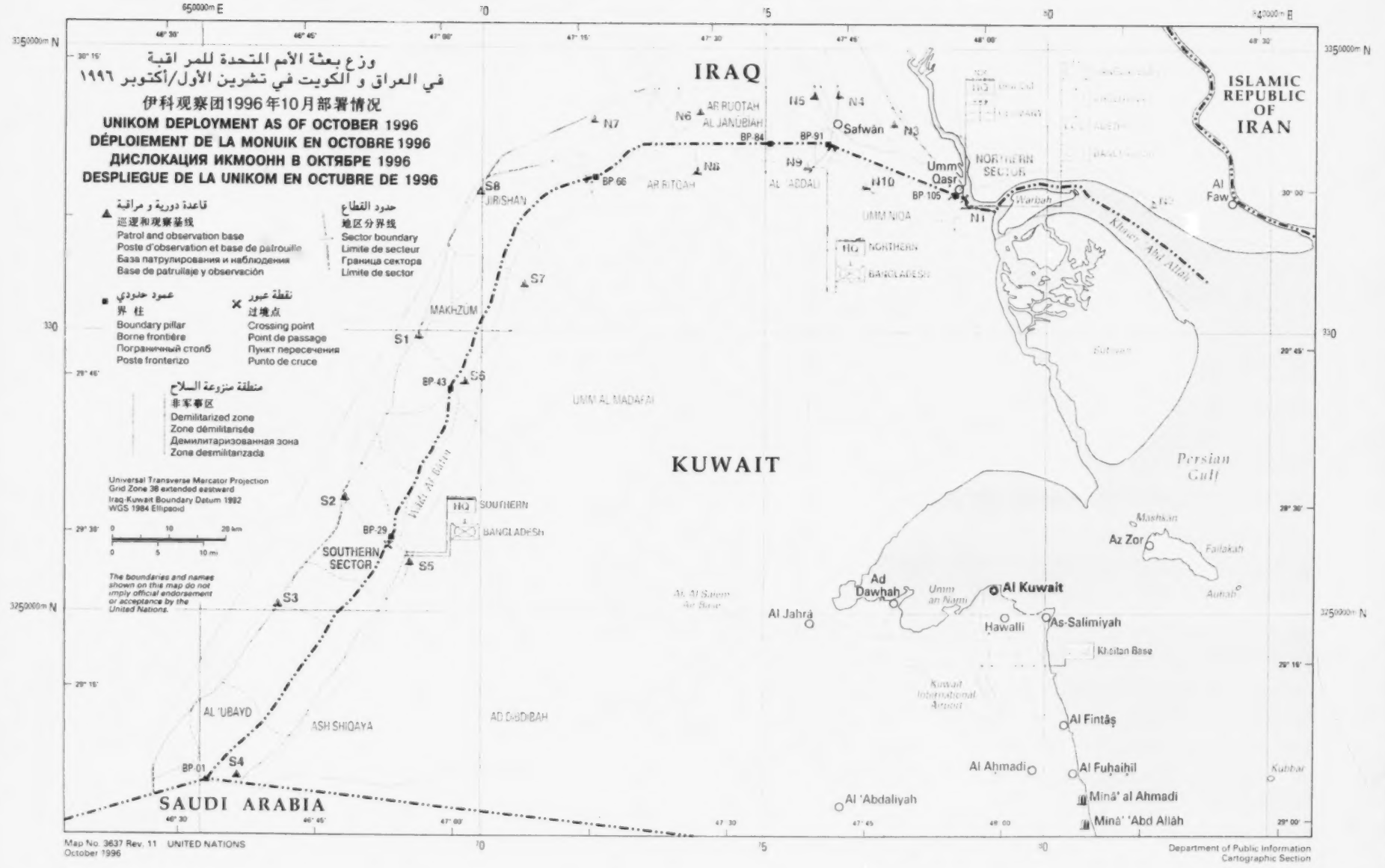
14. The General Assembly, by its resolution 50/234 of 7 June 1996, appropriated $52,141,900 gross for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission. Two thirds of the cost of the Mission, equivalent to some $33.4 million, is to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 31 October 1996 and the Government of Kuwait has paid its voluntary contributions for the period ending 30 April 1996.

15. As at 15 September 1996, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM since the inception of the Mission through 31 October 1996 amounted to $23.8 million, which represents some 12 per cent of the assessment for the Mission. The unpaid assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $2.1 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

16. UNIKOM continued to contribute to the maintenance of calm and stability in the DMZ. The situation along the border was generally quiet, despite the events in Iraq in early September. UNIKOM received cooperation from the Governments of both Iraq and Kuwait in the discharge of its duties. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

17. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to the Force Commander and to the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.


وزع بعثة الأمم المتحدة للمراقبة
في العراق و الكويت في تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ١٩٩٦
伊科观察团1996年10月部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1996
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK EN OCTOBRE 1996
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ИКМООНН В ОКТЯБРЕ 1996
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN OCTUBRE DE 1996
قاعدة دورية و مراقبة
巡逻和观察基线
Patrol and observation base
Poste d'observation et base de patrouille
База патрулирования и наблюдения
Base de patrullaje y observación
حدود القطاع
地区分界线
Sector boundary
Limite de secteur
Граница сектора
Límite de sector
عمود حدودي
界 柱
Boundary pillar
Borne frontière
Пограничный столб
Poste fronterizo
نقطة عبور
过境点
Crossing point
Point de passage
Пункт пересечения
Punto de cruce
منطقة منزوعة السلاح
非军事区
Demilitarized zone
Zone démilitarisée
Демилитаризованная зона
Zona desmilitanzada
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
Grid Zone 38 extended eastward
Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Datum 1992
WGS 1984 Ellipsoid
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
HQ NORTHERN BANGLADESH
HQ SOUTHERN BANGLADESH
AR RUOTAH
AL JANUBIAH
AR RITQAH
AL 'ABDALI
UMM NOA
JIRISHAN
MAKHZUM
UMM AL MADAFAI
Wadi Al Batin
AL 'UBAYD
ASH SHIQAYA
AD DIBDIBAH
Safwān
Umm Qasr
Warbah
Khawr Abd Allah
Bubiyan
Persian Gulf
Mashkan
Az Zor
Failakah
Auhah
Ad Dawhah
Umm an Nami
Al Kuwait
Al Jahrā
Hawalli
As-Salimiyah
Khaitan Base
Kuwait International Airport
Al Fintās
Al Ahmadi
Al Fuḥaiḥil
Kubbar
Al 'Abdaliyah
Minā' al Ahmadi
Minā' 'Abd Allāh
Al Faw
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Cartographic Section